

Atty's 21927

Pat. App. Not known - US phase of PCT/EP00/00444

In the revised claims:

Cancel all the claims in the case.

Add the following claims:

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1 -- 7. An apparatus for shrinking a foil wrapped about a
2 stack of objects and projecting vertically past an end of the
3 stack, the apparatus comprising:

4 a frame extending vertically adjacent the stack;
5 means including a heater vertically displaceable on the
6 frame and directed at the wrapped stack for shrinking the foil
7 thereabout;

8 a nozzle centered vertically on the stack and having an
9 annular array of outlets directed generally vertically and out-
10 wardly at the end of the stack; and

11 means for supplying a gas under pressure to the nozzle
12 for directing respective jets of the gas from the openings at the
13 foil extending past the end for erecting the foil extending past
14 the end.

1 8. The foil-shrinking apparatus defined in claim 7
2 wherein the nozzle has an annular face extending at an acute angle
3 the end face and formed with the outlets.

1 9. The foil-shrinking apparatus defined in claim 7
2 wherein the face and outlets extend at an angle of about 45° to a
3 vertical centerline of the stack.

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1 10. The foil-shrinking apparatus defined in claim 7,
2 further comprising
3 means for vertically moving the nozzle toward and away
4 from the stack.

1 11. The foil-shrinking apparatus defined in claim 7
2 wherein the end is the upper end and the stack has a lower end past
3 which the foil also extends, the apparatus further comprising:
4 a second such nozzle connected to the means and directed
5 at the lower end for erecting the foil extending therepast.

1 12. The foil-shrinking apparatus defined in claim 7,
2 further comprising:
3 means for pressing the foil against the stack as the foil
4 is shrunk around the stack.

1 13. The foil-shrinking apparatus defined in claim 12,
2 further comprising
3 means including a lift table for raising the pressing
4 means.

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